



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2012

No. 30

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Today I will read George Washington's "Prayer for the United States of America," exactly as it appears in the chapel at Valley Forge.

Almighty God: We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to the government, and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy Nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 27, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, Senator SHAHEEN will be recognized to deliver Washington's Farewell Address. This is the 150th anniversary of that tradition, and we are very pleased that Senator SHAHEEN is going to do this. No one could be more exemplary of his service than she.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following the address, the Senate will be in morning business until 4:30 p.m. today.

At 4:30 p.m., the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Margo Brodie to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York. At 5:30 p.m., the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Brodie nomination.

I ask unanimous consent that following the vote and resumption of legislative session, the Senate be in a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with the time equally divided and controlled between Senators PRYOR and ALEXANDER or their designees.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING SENATOR RAGGIO

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last week Nevada lost a great statesman and I

lost a friend and mentor. William Raggio was the longest serving State senator in Nevada's history. He died last week while traveling in Australia. My heart is with his wife Dale, whom I spoke with, children Leslie and Tracy and, of course, my thoughts go to Mark, the son Bill lost in 2004, six grandchildren, and they have a great-grandchild.

I hope it is some small comfort to know that all of Nevada mourns the loss of this very effective and fine Nevada citizen.

He was a second-generation Nevadan born and raised in Reno, NV. Senator Randolph Townsend said, "Bill was part of the fabric of the city." That is true. He lived to serve.

In addition to his four decades of service in the State legislature, he volunteered to serve in the Armed Forces during World War II. He enlisted in the Navy at age 17, but the war ended before he graduated from officer training school.

When he finished his service, he attended the University of Nevada, and then went to law school in California. But he continued to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps as a United States Navy Reservist.

He was the district attorney of Washoe County, which is the Reno metropolitan area, for 18 years, including 3 terms before he became a State legislator. He was president of the National DAs Association.

He rooted out corruption wherever he served. There was nothing more corrupt, in his mind, and the minds of all Nevadans, than an illegal brothel. That illegal brothel went on by virtue of Joe Conforte being able to pass out money to people for a long time. Bill Raggio, as DA, picked a fight with him, and that fight is legend. Bill got the last word. Conforte spent 22 months in prison for trying to bribe Bill Raggio. And in 1965, Bill Raggio, to get the last word, had the local authorities declare that facility a nuisance and burn it

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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